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1951

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Amateur Radio

JOURNAL OF
THE WIRELESS
INSTITUTE OF
AUSTRALIA

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JUNE 1951

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EDITORIAL



Are the Defence Services Taking Full Advantage of the Trained Personnel Available from the Ranks of the Amateurs?

Up to date, of the three Active Services—Navy, Army, and the Air Force—only the Air Force has submitted a scheme directly to our members and even that scheme does not appear to be receiving as much enthusiasm and push from official Service quarters as it merits.

Many of our members served in the radar and communications branches of other arms of the Services during both world wars, and many of them—particularly the younger generation from the 1939-45 war—are expressing their disappointment at the absence of plans for them in the event of a third world war.

In view of the fine war record the Amateur has rightly earned from his ability, so ably demonstrated in the past, to take over in the event of a National Emergency, the Services could have a resolute backbone of well trained personnel who would only require relatively short training to fit themselves into Service routine.

It is hoped that before long the "permanent careerist" attitude at present so evident in the Services will give way to a saner and more sober realisation of the true worth of the Amateur—his vast capacity for enthusiastic national service and his desire to take a keen interest in preparing for all eventualities.

Why should he have to search vainly for an avenue to offer his services which should eagerly be sought by not only the three main arms of the Services, but also by Civilian Defence Organisations?

America and England have long since taken advantage of this ready-made source of technical personnel for the various branches of their military and civil organisations. It is hoped that the powers-that-be in Australia will grasp this advantage before it is too late.

There will be no time to think about it afterwards!

—FEDERAL EXECUTIVE

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Twenty-First Annual Federal Convention of W.I.A.

Federal Executive's Annual Report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The activities of the Institute have been maintained at a satisfactory level throughout the year by all Divisions, and the Federal Council is indeed grateful to all Divisional Officers for their loyal support of their various divisions.

Membership throughout the Divisions has been maintained satisfactorily, and the financial stability of the Institute, as a whole, is very sound.

In the Federal sphere, your Executive has been able to carry out the majority of the directives laid down by the Association at last year's Convention. It is felt that you will realize that the Institute's progress as a whole is due, in no small measure, to the policy laid down at each annual Convention, and consequently, the decisions reached at these conferences are of prime importance to the welfare of all members.

Your Executive has continued to maintain cordial relations with the officers of the F.M.A. and it is desired to remind members that the very friendly contact thus established has done much to facilitate favourable decisions on matters affecting Amateurs throughout the Commonwealth.

Your Executive has also maintained close contact with the various Divisions during the year, and items of international interest resulting from our discussions, have been published in "Amateur Radio" for the benefit of all members.

It is felt that all members will wish to join with your Executive in extending congratulations to the Editor and staff of "Amateur Radio" for their successful and untiring efforts in the production of an interesting and valuable contribution to the life of the Institute. Our thanks are also extended to the Victorian Division for its financial support in this venture.

Congratulations are also extended to those Amateurs who rendered public service in emergency conditions, when normal means of communication were interrupted. The development of suitable equipment for this purpose is an important factor for considerable experimentation and originality.

The Treasurer's statement shows the present satisfactory state of the Federal finances and the Treasurer is to be congratulated for his careful handling of the very considerable amount of funds.

The work of the Federal Secretary is deserving of special mention, and he is due to be thanked for the vast amount of effort expended in his carrying out the duties of an honorary official which occupies so much of his leisure hours.

The Publicity Officer, the Federal QSL Bureau Manager, the Federal DX C.C. Manager and the Federal Traffic Manager have all done splendid work during the year, and our appreciation is extended to them.

The faithful work of the Federal Vice-President should not be overlooked, and he is a most reliable and conscientious member of the Executive.

It is hoped that the year now before us will offer us a further opportunity to enjoy to the full those facilities now available to us as Amateurs, and it behooves us to do our utmost as individual members to strengthen and support the Institute in its activities.

TREASURER'S REPORT

It is my pleasure and duty to present for your approval revenue statements and a balance sheet embodying the financial transactions of the Federal members for the year ending at 31st December, 1950. This is an 11-month period, brought about by the fact that Easter occurs approximately two-three weeks earlier than usual.

The documents in your hands consist of the balance sheet, being a statement of our assets and liabilities, a statement of receipts and payments No. 1 and No. 2 accounts, and the statement of income and expenditure. These documents are in full compliance with the provisions of the Constitution, and are rendered in detail as required by our Federal Constitution.

For full notes on the new balance sheet, you will note that we now have two accounts with the Commonwealth Bank, No. 1 Account taking care of general receipts and expenditure, whilst No. 2 Account is devoted purely to Convention expenses. The two accounts are working smoothly, and satisfactorily cover our accounting needs.

It should be noted that the figures will indicate that our economy has been observed, and the balance of £212/10/8 at the Bank against No. 1 Account is a sound indication of the balance and details attached are therefore submitted for your approval.

The budget for 1950 provides a reliable guide for our financial requirements for 1951, and that experience I now submit Federal Executive's estimated budgeting for 1951.

QSL Bureau	£10 0 0
Printing and Stationery	10 0 0
Audit of Accounts	10 0 0
Trophies and Prizes	25 0 0
Convention Minutes	25 0 0
Petty Cash	15 0 0
Convention Dinner	20 0 0
Convention Expenses	15 0 0
Entertaining	10 0 0
Contingencies	20 0 0
Total	£200 0 0

At this point I wish to advise that due to an impending change of address to a new country district, it is necessary for me to leave the Federal Executive this year. Mr. George Manning has therefore been appointed my successor as Federal Treasurer, and with him will be in his new responsibility.

Finally, I would like to thank the Federal President and his officers and also all Divisional officers for their splendid co-operation during my four years of office. If I can be of further service to the Institute in any way, at any time, I shall be only too pleased to serve in any capacity for the benefit of the Wireless Institute of Australia and its members.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st Dec., 1950

EQUITIES	
Accumulated Fund	£321 5 7
Total	£321 5 7

ASSETS	
Current Assets:	
Cash at Bank	£187 8 11
Certificates on hand	19 4 8
Badges on hand at cost	1 16 8
Stationery on hand	3 0 0
Total	£210 5 7

Fixed Assets:	
Eddystone S.W. Receiv.	£50 0 0
Trophy Rememb. Day	30 0 0
Total	£80 0 0
Total	£291 5 7

Moved S.A., seconded W.A.: "That the report be received."—Carried.

Moved N.S.W., seconded W.A.: "That the fixed assets be written down by 50 per cent. in the next annual balance sheet."—Carried.

Moved Vic., sec. Qld.: "That the statement of assets and liabilities be received."—Carried.

FEDERAL QSL BUREAU

The Federal QSL Bureau functioned smoothly and efficiently during the year under review. No major difficulties were experienced and the co-operation received from the Federal Executive and particularly from the Federal Secretary was all that could be desired.

Cards handled totalled 48,608. This total is again a reduction on that for the previous year. Compared with the year ending at 31st Dec., 1949, 171,868; 1948-49, 63,786; 1947-48, 56,823. Despite the increase in world Amateur population the steady decrease is attributable to the continued public sale of the QSL cards by the Divisional Bureaus, and to the greatly increased circulation of the International Call Book. Another contributing factor is the poor and irregular conditions which prevailed during the past eight months on the main International DX bands at 4 and 28 Mc. particularly for contacts with North America from whence emanates a good percentage of QSL Bureau traffic.

Due to the increase in the cost of the cards we were approximately £1 less than the previous year, despite a further increase in postage rates of approximately 10 per cent. from December, 1950. However, due to the postage increases of the past two years, the true basis of costs—that is, cost of handling per 100 cards—is £1.10. For the year ending at 31st Dec. this cost shows as 3.5 pence per 100 cards as compared with 2.3 pence in 1949-50, 3.37 pence in 1948-49, and 3.94 pence in 1947-48. Due to the Victorian Bureau were again passed by hand due to the continued good work of VK3CZM and VK3COT. Their efforts in this regard represent a real saving to the Bureau.

All the Divisional Bureaus functioned well during the year, and, with the exception of the Queensland Division, the accounts and personnel remained unchanged. In Queensland, the Inward Bureau was taken over by Jack

Files, VK4JF, from Eric Lake, VK4EL, when the latter was transferred. The Outward Bureau for this Division was taken over by VK4RL, on the sad death of my old friend and reliable QSL officer, Bob Campbell, VK4RC, during the year.

W.A.C. and W.B.R. applications handled during the year totalled 12,000. Items of interest to Divisional Managers and to Amateurs generally were published monthly in Federal QSL Bureau column in "Amateur Radio".

During the present year I will celebrate 30 years of continuous service as QSL Manager for the W.I.A. During this period upwards of half a million cards have passed through this Bureau.

Following is the balance sheet of the Bureau:

Receipts	
By Credit Balance from 1949-50	£0 7 0
Advances from Federal Executive	7 10 0
Total	£7 17 0

Expenditure	
To Postages on despatches to Divisional Bureaus, W.A.C. correspondence, purchased mail, and other sundries	£3 15 0
Cash and Stamps on hand	1 2 0
Total	£4 17 0

TRAFFIC MANAGER'S REPORT

Twice weekly schedules have been satisfactorily maintained during the past twelve months with the Divisional Traffic Managers: VK2ARE, VK4AAV, VK3ST, VK2BSA, and VKTOM. A total of 281 (277) contacts was made by the Federal Traffic Manager: VK3CZC, during the period.

It was pleasing to note that with the increase in inward messages to 27 (18) the Divisions seem to be again realising the value of this channel. Outward messages totalled 25 (27) to the Divisional Managers: VK3CZC, during the period.

The figures in brackets are the comparative totals for the year 1949-50.

It was pleasing to note that during periods when VK3CZC was not available.

In the 4½ years since this net first commenced its post-war operations on the 31st October, 1945, VK3CZC has contacted Divisional traffic stations on a total of 1,640 occasions.

The senior out-station in more ways than one, VK3CZC, has contacted 281 contacts, VK2ARE with 284 contacts, VKTOM with 304 contacts, while VK4AAV has 28 contacts to his credit since taking over from VK4AG whose total was 30 contacts.

FEDERAL DX C.C. MANAGER'S REPORT

I took over the job of DX C.C. Manager during September, 1950, and I present herewith a brief report on the activities of the DX Century Club, and the W.A.S. 50 Mc. during the year.

Firstly the DX Century Club. The following members were listed for the year ending 31st December, 1950: Phone 7, making a total of 18; C.w. 14, making a total of 32; Open 13, making a total of 43. The total membership is now 93.

I sincerely hope that the "proposed standard DX record card" as presented as an appendix to the agenda of this year's AGM will be adopted. Its adoption, to my mind, will be of great benefit to the DX C.C. Committee and to applicants for membership. I suggest it be used in a manner similar to that used by the "CQ" Magazine Awards Committee in recording the progress of members.

A number of members and applicants have been forwarding their cards without including the required registered postage. I have had this matter publicized in the AGM agenda, and in the official W.I.A. broadcast, and hope that in future members and applicants will include postage, thereby saving the Institute considerable expense over the year and considerable inconvenience to the Committee.

For 1951 progress totalled 36. The checking of cards and the issue of certificates has proceeded smoothly over the year, ten applicants having qualified for this award. A special list will be issued in the AGM agenda. A card of appreciation has been issued to each applicant claiming an additional country worked on this band.

During the year, regular schedules were kept with the DX C.C. and the various working conditions on the DX bands have prevented contacts at the schedule times over the past few

are mainly for the purpose of checking alterations in call lists and the record of doubtful DX stations, etc.

This report is brief, but I trust I have given the Convention some useful information on how this important administrative organisation is functioning and progressing.

Moved Tas., sec. Vic.: "That the reports as read be received.—Carried."

Moved W.A., sec. Qld.: "That a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr. R. E. Jones, VK3JL."

Minutes of the Convention

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Moved N.S.W., sec. S.A.: "That in view of the increased cost of postage, the matter of a uniform charge for the handling of both internal and external QSL cards be discussed and determined." After discussion, it was agreed that the policy book covered the situation.—Carried.

2. Moved N.S.W., sec. W.A.: "That at the conclusion of the Convention business, an open session be declared for an exchange of views between delegates on matters concerning Amateur Radio."—Carried.

3. Moved N.S.W., sec. Tas.: "That the Convention should sit on Easter Sunday if there is any business unfinished at the conclusion of the session."—Carried.

4. Moved Vic., sec. W.A.: "That the co-operation of other States be sought in making greater use of the higher frequency ends of the six and two metre bands."—Carried.

5. This item was withdrawn by the Queensland delegate in action already taken by Federal Executive.

6. Moved S.A., sec. W.A.: "That the Convention in future be held every second year, the next in 1953."—Lost.

7. Moved S.A., sec. Vic.: "That the matter of electrical interference elimination be pressed by the Australian Electrical Engineers' Department with a view to having some uniform law passed as in the United Kingdom to ensure the absence of interference with reception of radio signals."—Carried.

8. Moved W.A., sec. S.A.: "That Sydney be the venue of the 1952 Annual Federal Convention."—Carried.

9. Moved W.A., sec. S.A.: "That Federal Executive should clarify to the Federal Council representatives the contents of the Guide to Operators of Amateur Wireless Stations, the contents of the Handbook for the Guidance of Amateur Operators with the Wireless Telegraphy Act."—Carried.

Federal Executive produced copies of the Wireless Telegraphy Act and Statutory Rules, and explained the amendments made in these documents and the Handbook for the Guidance of Operators of Amateur Wireless Stations to the satisfaction of the assembly.

10. Moved W.A., sec. Vic.: "That any person eligible for membership in any grade residing in a Division can become a member of that Division only."—Carried.

11. Moved N.S.W., sec. S.A.: "That the location of Federal Executive for 1951-52 be in N.S.W. East."—Carried.

12. Moved F.E., sec. W.A.: "That the contents of the Institute's Policy Book be reviewed at each Convention to preserve continuity of Federal policy."—Carried.

13. Motion arising from review of Policy Book: Moved N.S.W., sec. F.E.: "That a recommendation be made to the South Australian Division to Federal Executive concerning the appropriate recipient of the W.A.S.B. Trophy."—Carried.

The Policy Book was read in its entirety and certain redundancies removed of which Federal Executive was in officially notified to Divisional Secretaries in due course. The suggestion was agreed to that in future the Policy Book revision be No. 1 item on the agenda.

13. Moved F.E., sec. W.A.: "That Federal Executive receive reports from time to time from all Divisions of any event of an historical nature regarding Amateur Radio, and that Federal Executive be requested to compile a list of events to assist in the compilation of a 'History of Amateur Radio' at some future date."—Carried.

14. Moved F.E., sec. W.A.: "That the draft standard membership application form be adopted by all Divisions."—Carried.

15. Moved F.E., sec. Qld.: "That an emergency traffic plan be chosen from the following submitted signals to comply with agenda item 40 from the 1950 Convention, and that the signal be submitted to the P.M.G. Department for approval and if approved given wide publicity throughout the Amateur licensees of the Commonwealth for phone use: "P.T.A." for c.w. use, "Distress Network Traffic" for phone; "DNT" for c.w.

16. Moved N.S.W., sec. S.A.: "That as an emergency traffic signal to comply with agenda item 40 from the 1950 Convention for

Federal QSL Manager, from this Convention and Federal Council for his twenty years of service to the W.A.S.B."—Carried.

Moved F.E., sec. S.A.: "That a letter be sent to Mr. J. Dobbins, our old friend in the P.M.G.'s Department, who has an unfortunate accident recently and has been in the hospital for some weeks. We might express our regrets at his untimely departure."—Carried.

Moved Vic., sec. W.A.: "That the minutes of the Twentieth Annual Federal Convention be adopted."—Carried.

phone use, "Emergency Traffic," and for telegraphy, "QRRR."—Carried.

The amendment became the motion and was carried.

16. Moved F.E., sec. Tas.: "That the derogatory publicity given Amateurs in the press during 1950 be discussed with a view to impressing every Division with the necessity to maintain control over the activities of its members by constant policing of their knowledge of the Regulations and good operating procedure."—Carried.

17. Federal Executive withdrew this item in favour of amendment.

18. Moved N.S.W., sec. Vic.: "That the Federal Executive prepare a plan for a war-time emergency network within the Institute if possible, using the 50, 144, 570, and possibly 28 Mc. bands with a view to having these frequencies retained for use of the network in time of war and that this plan should be discussed at some position with the Postmaster General and the Director of Civil Defence."—Carried.

19. Moved S.A., sec. Tas.: "That the pages of 'Amateur Radio' be made more open for publication of letters over members' signatures dealing with matters of general interest to Amateur Radio."—Carried.

At this stage the Chairman adjourned the Convention to enable the Editor to confer with the Editor matters relative to the magazine.

19. Moved F.E., sec. W.A.: "That the Federal Executive be requested to make the necessary action to amend item 21 of the Federal Constitution of the Wireless Institute of Australia as amended in 1947 by deleting the words 'within 90 days immediately preceding the meeting' in lieu thereof '90 days prior to'."—Carried.

20. Moved N.S.W., sec. S.A.: "That the uniform constitution be discussed and calibrations a view to the finalisation of the draft if possible."—Carried.

21. Moved N.S.W., sec. S.A.: "That draft No. 2 of the Uniform Divisional Constitution be submitted to the Divisions for ratification by their members."—Carried.

21. Moved Qld.: "That Federal Executive be instructed to approach the P.M.G.'s Department in the matter of frequency meters, pointing out that properly constructed and calibrated absorption type meter is more useful and fool-proof than the heterodyne meter owing to the fact that it gives a visual indication, is also much cheaper and more likely to be used properly." The motion lapsed for want of a second.

22. The Queensland delegate withdrew this item in view of item 21 lapsing for want of a second.

23. The Queensland delegate withdrew this item in view of the factual explanation given by item 21.

24. Moved S.A., sec. Qld.: "That the matter of Commercial Stations in the Amateur Bands be discussed."—Carried.

This item was discussed and the Chairman gave the assembly assurance that every report sent in by the official Divisional listener was forwarded to the Wireless Branch of the Postmaster General's Department where a sizable file was already in evidence. He further indicated that it could be done by the Australian administration until such time as the Atlantic City findings came into force.

25. Moved W.A., sec. S.A.: "That the minimum age limit for the granting of the A.O.C.P. and the Amateur license be 16 years."—Carried.

26. Moved F.E., sec. S.A.: "That Federal Executive approach the P.M.G.'s Department with a view to requesting that future A.O.C.P. examinations be conducted in the form of a 'quiz' as suggested in the Constitution."—Carried.

27. Moved Qld., sec. Vic.: "That an Australian award of International standing be established, the award to be called W.A.S.B.—meaning 'World's Amateur Society'."—Carried.

The Chairman indicated that with the acquiescence of the Queensland Division, Federal Executive would co-opt a sub-committee from that Division to establish a detailed set of rules for submission to Federal Council.

28. Moved Tas., sec. W.A.: "That Tasmania be granted separate county status."—Carried.

29. Moved S.A., sec. W.A.: "That the DX C.C. be discussed."—Carried. A discussion took place.

30. Moved F.E., sec. Vic.: "That a standard DX C.C. form be adopted for use by each license holder. The DX C.C. form to be made available to applicants at a cost not exceeding sixpence (6d.) and that the DX C.C. rules be enforced at the 1950 Convention be amended to incorporate this form."—Carried.

31. Moved N.S.W.: "That Federal Executive be requested to fail to run the 1951 Hull Memorial Trophy V.H.F. Contest."—The motion lapsed for want of a second.

32. Moved N.S.W., sec. W.A.: "That the VK-ZL Contest for 1951 be conducted by the N.S.W. Division on behalf of Federal Executive, this Contest to be known as the VK-ZL 1951 Jubilee Contest."—Carried.

33. Moved N.S.W., sec. W.A.: "That Federal Executive co-opt the New South Wales Divisional Council to conduct the 1951 Jubilee Contest on behalf of Federal Executive, this Contest to be known as the VK-ZL 1951 Jubilee Contest."—Carried.

34. The Queensland delegate withdrew this item in lieu of item 33.

35. The Queensland delegate withdrew this item in view of the explanation given by the Secretary regarding previous correspondence between the I.A.R.U. and the Federal Executive of the Wireless Institute of Australia with reference to this.

36. This item was withdrawn by the South Australian delegate in view of the discussion already taken.

37. Moved F.E., sec. W.A.: "That the request by the N.Z.A.R.T. that the W.I.A. include rules 8, 9 and 10 as included in the standard set of rules submitted to the 1950 Convention by the W.I.A. be accepted."—Carried.

38. Moved S.A., sec. Tas.: "That the revised rules for the VK-ZL International DX Contest be attached to the minutes of the twentieth Annual Federal Convention as an appendix."—Carried.

39. Moved S.A., sec. Qld.: "That the Northern Territory be classed as a separate area for the purpose of the VK-ZL Contest."—Carried.

40. Moved S.A., sec. W.A.: "That the rules for the V.H.F. Contest be discussed."—Carried.

41. Moved F.E., sec. W.A.: "That the standard Contest Log Sheet be adopted for all Australian Contests, the South Australian accepted unless submitted on this form."—Carried.

42. Moved Tas., sec. W.A.: "That (a) The winning Division for the R.D. Trophy shall be decided on the basis of the average number of logs as at present and then adding to it a bonus arrived at by multiplying that average by the ratio of the total number of licensees in that Division to the total of Amateur licensees in that Division at the time of the Contest. (b) Total points equals—

Number of Logs
Average Score 1 plus Number of licensees in Division

and (b) That the present scheme of graduated points for contacts between the various Divisions be retained."—Carried.

43. The South Australian delegate withdrew this item in view of item 41.

44. The Western Australian delegate withdrew this item in view of item 41.

45. Moved F.E., sec. W.A.: "That a special per capita levy of 5d. per member be made on Divisions to defray the cost of the purchase of the Constitution and the minutes of Federal Executive records and correspondence."—Carried.

After discussing the position of Federal finances with the Treasurer, the Chairman said, "Federal Executive will withdraw the request for a special per capita levy of 5d. per member if the Convention will agree to the purchase of the equipment and the necessary postage to submit to the Divisions another call for assistance at a later stage if necessary."—Agreed.

The motion as written was withdrawn.

GENERAL BUSINESS

All Divisions To Attend

1. Moved N.S.W., sec. W.A.: "That the policy concerning the R.A.A.F. Wireless Reserve or any substitute plan be discussed and determined."—Carried. The matter was discussed at length.

2. Moved N.S.W., sec. W.A.: "That the policy of the Institute concerning co-operation with the R.A.A.F. to recruit and encourage to actively participate in any official recruiting or defence plans."—Carried.

3. Moved N.S.W., sec. Vic.: "That Federal Executive investigate immediately the alleged imposition of 25 per cent. Sales Tax on P.M.G. equipment and the necessary steps to be taken to the highest possible authority for its removal."—Carried.

The Chairman gave an assurance that this matter would be taken up with the correct authority in the strongest possible terms within

(Continued on Page 7)

"Amateur Hour by Amateurs" and it was so appreciated that Ivan has been appointed Official Concert Committee for the 1952 Convention.

Mr. M. Goldstein, President of the Shire Council, expressed the pleasure of the citizens of Urunga at having the company of the Radio Amateurs once again and assured us of a hearty welcome at all times. His remarks were endorsed by Mr. D. Foster, the Secretary of the Urunga Progress Association, in a happy little speech spiced with topical interests.

On behalf of the Council and members of the New South Wales Division, Mr. J. Cowan 2YC made a speech acknowledging the welcome and friendly relations which we enjoyed with the bulk of the Urunga community. At the evening was the presentation of prizes by Convention Chairman Hart Wall 2ZC and Convention Organiser Clief Betsalick 2XO. At the conclusion of the night giving a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Clief for the hard work which he put into the arranging of the Convention and the hope was expressed that next year's Convention will be the biggest and best ever since Clief has expressed a wish that the position of organiser for 1953 should be taken over by a younger man.

Full list of prize winners is given here: Gerry Challenger Remembrance Contest (Challenger Trophy) 1st: 2AFA, Harold Whyte, replica of trophy and £2 cash prize; 2nd: 2ZC, Jim Cowan scope iron; 144 Mc. Hidden Transmitter Search (Gleeson Trophy) 1st: 2AFA, Harold Whyte, replica of trophy and £5 cash prize; 2nd: 2ZC, Jim Cowan, £1/10; North Coast Scramble (United Radio Club Trophy) 1st: 2AFA, John Meagher, replica of trophy and 500 QSL cards; 2nd: 2ZC, Jim Cowan, 807; Longest Distance worked: Harold Whyte, prize, pocket of metal valves presented by Associate A. Nall; Champion Dart Thrower: Mrs. Macarney, pack of Canastra Cards; Ladies' Lucky Number: Mrs. E. Baker, Duchess Set presented by Mr. John Hall, Gen's Lucky Number: E. Baker, 2ZF, 500 QSL cards; Guessing weight of bunch of Bananas: John Walzer, 32A; Ladies' Reception of Votes: Mrs. Russ. Watt, Pearl Necklace and Ear-rings; Fishing Competition: 1st, John and Marie Wall; 2nd, John and Marie Wall; 3rd, John and Marie Wall; 4th, John and Marie Wall; 5th, John and Marie Wall; Ear Batters' Award 1949-51: Dave Evans, 2AYE; Longest Distance Travelled to Convention: Frank O'Dwyer 30F, Guessing Competition for 1,000 QSL cards: 2AGD, George Lee.

The concert concluded at 10.30 p.m. to allow early travellers to get some much needed sleep before their long journey home. The 22nd of Monday morning was occupied by a post-mortem meeting where many good ideas were passed along to Clief, our Organizer, regarding improvements for next year's show. An outstanding suggestion was that we endeavour to charter a bus for the Urunga type, bringing Amateurs from Sydney and to pick up en route. If possible such a service may be extended to include VK3 and VK4. If sufficient inducement offers. Since the Convention Clief (always on the ball) has contacted a Sydney Company who have expressed their willingness to co-operate fully and full details will be published in "A.R." as soon as possible.

It will be realized that Conventions of this nature take a tremendous amount of organizing and to Clief and his staff and his good life participants extend a really heartfelt vote of

thanks for their selfless efforts, particularly in view of the fact that Clief's health has been indifferent for some time past and the enormous expenditure of energy has not assisted him to maintain his usual verve and vigour. Our gratitude is also due to Perce Sara who has been Clief's right-hand man before and during the Convention.

The Convention Committee desire to thank the following donors of trophies and prizes for the various events and, in doing so, also extend their thanks to all who assisted in any way to ensure the success and smooth-running of the Convention. Gleeson Bros. trophy for 144 Mc. Hidden Transmitter Search; United Radio Distributors Pty. Ltd., trophy for North Coast Scramble; Friends of late Gerry Challenger, trophy for Portable Field Operation; Ernie Ashby, 2AGE, for prize money and heterodyne, for donation of QSL Cards and pack of Canastra Cards; Norm Meedy, for cash donation and selling as Official Photographer; John Hall, donation of Duchess Set (hand solder); Dr. Hewitt, cash donation for prize in Challenger Contest; Percy and Mrs. Sara, Pearl Necklaces and Necklaces; Mary Powell, 2AYE, donation of Scope Iron; Dave Evans, 2AYE, donation of 1,000 QSLs for Guessing Competition in aid of Gerry Challenger; South Coast Officers, members of N.S.W. Div. W.I.A., donation of replicas of all trophies; Jack Green and his Mother, for their help in the Sunday evening concert; The Unknown Young Ladde, for his entertaining session with the guitar and hill-billy songs; Bob Wolf and Dan Foster, for the use of their "shacks"; Mr. and Mrs. Daley, for the loan of their cottage; "Chick" Macarney and Norm Meedy, for services as Transport Officers; Jack Gerard, 2ADN, host to our ladies at the Picture Night; Ted Hamey, for the bunches of bananas and putting in the 15 p.m. show; Jim Dewine, for the "welcome" cards; Nicholas Gleeson and Theo Cummings, our genial hosts at the Ocean View Hotel, without whose co-operation the Convention could never be successful.

For the information of Sydney Amateurs, Messrs. John Martin Pty. Ltd. have the trophies on display in a special window show featuring Amateur Radio activities. A number of photographs taken at Urunga are also on display and copies may be obtained by those interested.

In conclusion, the Convention Committee desire to thank all who attended and ensured the success of the show and sincerely hope to meet them all again next Easter for Amateur Radio's Best and Brightest Show.

FEDERAL CONVENTION

(Continued from Page 5)

seven days of the conclusion of the Convention, and that a copy of all correspondence would be forwarded to Federal Controllers.

3. Moved N.S.W. sec. Vic.: "That it be the policy of the Wireless Institute of Australia not to refuse any facilities granted by the Postmaster General."—Carried.

4. Moved N.S.W. sec. S.A.: "That the Federal Council consider the latest figures concerning 'Amateur Radio'."—Carried.

5. Moved F.E. sec. W.A.: "That Federal Executive be instructed to take the following action to amend Section 25 of the Federal Constitution by (a) Deleting the words 'the Headquarters' in lines 3 and 4 and inserting the word 'any' in lieu thereof, and (b) Deleting the words 'the Headquarters' in line 7 and inserting the word 'appropriate' in lieu thereof."—Carried.

6. Moved Vic. sec. W.A.: "That Federal Executive approach the Postmaster General's Department with a view to allowing mobile operation on a frequency of 10-20 Mc. as now allowed on the bands of 50 Mc. and above, such permission to be granted without applying to the Department."—The Victorian Executive drew this item with the agreement of his second in view of the explanation given by the Chairman.

7. Moved Qld. sec. Tas.: "That the P.M.G.'s Department be approached with a view to permitting the postage rates on QSL cards as second-class mail matter (post card rates) so long as such cards bear only information concerning radio contacts referred to on the cards."—Carried.

8. Moved N.S.W. sec. Vic.: "That the P.M.G.'s Department be asked to allocate the prefix VK3 to Amateurs resident in the Northern Territory."—Carried.

9. Moved F.E. sec. Vic.: "That Federal Executive be authorized to purchase a typewriter and a filing cabinet for Federal Executive records and correspondence, the cost to be met from No. 1 account."—Carried.

Ross Hull Memorial Trophy Results of 50 Mc. Contest, 1951

Open Division

- | | |
|------------|------|
| (1) VK5QR | 3380 |
| (2) VK2ADT | 2851 |
| (3) VK5BC | 2564 |

Individual State Winners

New South Wales—VK2ADT.
Victoria—VK3IM.
Queensland—VK4KK.
South Australia—VK5QR.
Western Australia—VK6DW.
Tasmania—VK7LZ.

New Zealand Winners

- | | |
|-----------|------|
| (1) ZL2BJ | 1117 |
| (2) ZL1WW | 960 |
| (3) ZL2DS | 420 |

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DX NOTES BY VK4QL

IONOSPHERIC PREDICTIONS FOR THE AMATEUR BANDS

JUNE, 1951

Overall, April has been my worst month for DX. Stations in the south do not seem to have faded so badly, judging by the stations I have heard them work by or calling. ZLA also seemed to be doing OK.

This month produced one of the greatest DX hunts that has been on for a long time, due to the efforts of CMBA and KV4AA. CMBA went over to Guadalupe Island for approximately 15 days to operate as FGTXA. KV4AA made an effort to tell all he could of the mission, with the result that after zero hour, hundreds of calls were identical for one thing, the call FGTXA. Nothing was heard on the radio for a couple of days and one overseas hunter's head was in a state of "maybe he forgot his crystals." Even KV4AA heard nothing. However on the 17th, he apparently showed up and was worked by some of the VKs; just who I do not know as I was not on that night. VK9GW worked him one morning round 2000 G.M.T., but there was no sign here. However, FGTXA appeared for a brief period on 24th, but the band suddenly gave out and he went with it. The following day he was audible from about 0630 G.M.T. and worked quite a few VK on c.w. and phone, although his phone signals were not audible here. From information heard on the band, there are apparently other stations signing the FG prefix. SDG said he worked FG4IP.

The survey of the bands is not very satisfying this month. 35 Mc.—Haven't been on this band to any extent, my visits were of no DX value. SDG worked OAEAL there one night round 0800 G.M.T.

7 Mc.—This band has fallen right away for DX and is confirmed by a contact with one or two DX stations that were worked in Europe and South Africa. W signals in the evenings have been very erratic and not consistent for two consecutive nights. One evening GBL was heard about 0730 G.M.T.

Listings for the month are very few, even the usual VKs seem to have deserted this band. One or two ZS, ZSTP, CTIDJ, VQZGW, DLADN, ZDG hooked VSBAM and CTBBS, 3FH worked VPBSB and FGTXA.

14 Mc.—This band has been very patchy, at times high solar noise, but the Europeans have started to appear at the end of the month round 2000 G.M.T., but extremely erratic and hard to raise. On the 16th a minor opening appeared in the afternoon. One night a couple of stations were heard playing games with the commercial station in the band with the very chirpy and broad note. They were continually holding their bug on this, and apparently their c.p.o. back and forth over the commercial. A slice of luck happened with FBZSZ one night. The band was in poor shape due to solar noise, when FBZSZ appeared. He appeared again during the second over and was not heard again. Gave his QTH as Amsterdam Island. 4BG said 0600 to 0800 G.M.T. has been OK for Europe in Maryborough, then dead for a few hours, but improving round 3000 G.M.T.

SDG heard stations signing SLGCM and SLIAPL, and their QTH was given as Island of Gotland, and apparently in one thing country, being part of Sweden. Talking of new prefixes, "QST" says 854 prefix is not a new country, but you have chalked it up as one, it's bad luck.

Listings for the month here are: KXBEI (Navy 324, F.P.O., "Pico"), FGTXA, ZBIBS, ZBL, CSMAJ, FGTXA, VRIIG, FGTXA, EUAD, CQSL, VJ, A.R.R.L., VPAL, LAQ, HPIDL, 714MAR, ZDAAE, YSPIC, VPNC, UGWD, UZPKBZ, EBY, YSIO, 954AL, EAAP.

4BG worked/heard stations like KJIAO, MBRAJ, ZKIAA, PKJAG, CJA4, JAAAF, ZBIBS, VPFO, VPGJ, VPSB, PYIG, ZCUNU, HSL, (which I think should be HSL), VKIRB, and CFI.

ZDG lists PJRE, FGHP, YPML, FCBC, and FGTXA. 2ARN landed IINU/Trieste.

35 Mc.—Have very little on this band. Any time I have listened the band has been mostly poor, or only the usual Pacific stations coming through.

An interesting piece of information comes from KGEHU, on a matter I mentioned previously, as to certain restrictions on Amateur operation in the Pacific area by the U.S. authorities. Stations lying west of 170 degrees long. are not permitted to operate on 35 Mc. Stations west of 170 are not permitted to operate on 7 Mc. The stations. All stations operating in the Pacific (U.S. base) are registered by the U.S. Navy authorities.

2PG, ex-1PG is now operating again, and asks all who are anxiously waiting his QSL, not to panic. All is under control and QSL's will soon be on their way. These boys must have a colossal job making up the back log of cards. VKIHW has done his.

2ANN has now 98 contacts confirmed; SDG 163, the latest being ZSXX and YBUCU. 3CX has just built up his list with cards from KJFAA, VPAG, VQZGW, ABAAS, 2BIBS, 2BIBS, and VKIHW. New ones worked this month have brought my total worked to 181 with 99 confirmed, cards being sent to YBUCU, ZSXX, CTBBS, 954AX and VKIHW.

Notes have been prepared a little early this month as I am having a spot of leave, so if any "gen" does arrive this month too late, it will be included next month.

My thanks to all those who have helped out this month with the material to make up some "gen".

● The thought for the month, is a suggestion that we all look at the T section of the RST code, and see that 79 means a pure note, not a rough one. Cheers till next month.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

W.I.A. members are requested to promptly notify any change of address to their Divisional Secretary, not direct to "Amateur Radio."

DX C.C. LISTING

PHONE			
Call	No. Ctr.	Call	No. Ctr.
VK3JD	1 180	VK4AP	8 114
VK3SE	10 154	VK4BW	14 113
VK3VJ	10 154	VK4CJ	17 104
VK3KW	4 145	VK4DZ	13 102
VK3BZ	3 141	VK4HAA	15 102
VK3KJ	10 154	VK4KJ	18 101
VK3LN	11 132	VK3GG	18 100
VK4HR	12 129	VK3IE	5 100
VK4DD	6 138	VK3IE	7 100
CW			
Call	No. Ctr.	Call	No. Ctr.
VK3BZ	6 183	VK3IX	30 114
VK3PH	15 160	VK4DA	7 113
VK3VJ	9 150	VK4LZ	17 112
VK3EO	2 183	VK3BO	33 116
VK3CN	1 181	VK4JE	21 108
VK3LQ	6 141	VK4RC	27 107
VK3VW	4 140	VK3YD	27 105
VK3BZ	10 154	VK3PH	25 104
VK3VJ	9 150	VK3YC	36 103
VK3GW	16 132	VK4AFA	14 101
VK3RU	18 132	VK3NC	18 101
VK3KJ	9 135	VK3CJ	36 101
VK3RP	11 135	VK3OA	32 101
VK3EK	3 132	VK3TH	22 100
VK3KJ	10 154	VK3LJ	24 100
VK3UM	13 118	VK3AEZ	36 100
VK4PJ	29 115		
OPEN			
Call	No. Ctr.	Call	No. Ctr.
VK3BZ	4 202	VK4JA	43 114
VK3RU	9 178	VK4DZ	14 113
VK3HR	1 173	VK4RC	21 110
VK3KJ	10 171	VK4CJ	17 110
VK3KJ	1 167	VK4WF	40 109
VK3KW	13 165	VK4ZC	25 106
VK3KJ	10 160	VK4YI	11 106
VK3JE	12 164	VK4JL	33 105
VK4EL	10 158	VK4AWN	36 105
VK4KJ	14 148	VK4VW	18 104
VK4DO	15 145	VK4LZ	27 104
VK3MC	8 139	VK4PJ	44 104
VK3OP	18 137	VK4BZ	17 103
VK3DD	22 136	VK4CJ	36 103
VK3LN	28 135	VK4TI	37 103
VK4PJ	32 135	VK4HO	36 103
VK3DE	13 133	VK4BZ	36 103
VK4BA	9 126	VK4TH	31 102
VK4AHM	20 125	VK4YI	35 102
VK4BZ	16 123	VK4ACK	6 100
VK4BZ	41 117	VK4TO	36 100
VK4LZ	23 116	VK4VW	45 100
VK4FL	26 116		

The accompanying charts have been prepared by the Ionospheric Prediction Service of the Commonwealth Observatory. The first I used in the series was published in the November, 1948, issue of this magazine, together with an article explaining the nature of the forecasts and how to use them. Nine of the charts, prefixed by the letter "C" for Canberra, refer to forecasts for the South-Eastern Australian States. The remainder, prefixed by the letter "P" for Perth, are for Western Australia.

The Canberra charts refer to the following world zones:—

Zone	Region	Terminal
1.	Western Europe	London
2.	Mediterranean	Cairo
3.	N.-West America	San Francisco
3a.	N.-East America	New York
4.	Central America	Barbados
5.	South Africa	Capetown
6.	Far East	Manila

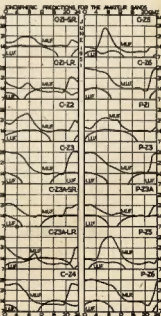
The forecasts have actually been prepared for point-to-point circuits between Canberra and the overseas terminals mentioned in the above table. It is, however, to be expected that the charts will provide an approximate indication of ionospheric conditions for all Amateur contacts from South Eastern Australia to the various world zones.

The Perth charts are similar to those based on Canberra. No forecasts are given from Perth to Zones 23 and 24 for the current month, as chart F-23 would be essentially similar to chart P-21, while chart F-24 might be unreliable due to auroral activity in high northern latitudes.

USE OF CHARTS

All that is necessary in using the charts is to select a time (G.M.T.) during which a specified Amateur band frequency is below the maximum usable frequency (M.U.F.) of the region of the ionosphere but above the lowest useful frequency (L.U.F.) for the desired contact. In two cases, Zones 1 and 3a, it is necessary to consult both the short-route (S.R.) chart and the following long-route (L.R.) chart.

The Prediction Service welcomes comments on the accuracy of its predictions. These should be forwarded through the W.I.A.



FIFTY MEGACYCLES AND ABOVE

Compiled by J. K. RIDGWAY, VK3CR.

50 Mc news from the Darwin area comes in a letter from Bill Wright, VK3CN, who sends details of his plans for work on this band.

Bill is at present running his 8 metre transmitter in parallel with his 40, 60, 80 and 100 metre rigs and will continue to do so in addition to running automatic transmission using m.s.v. The transmitter runs 35 watts to an 80T and the two element beam is fixed on VK3. No receiving gear for 8 metres is at present available, but a crystal controlled converter is under construction and will be used in conjunction with an ART receiver. He has never operated on 8 before, so is a little in the dark as to what to expect from the band. The station frequency is 60.8 Mc. and will be heard signing VK3CN or VK3SR who will take over operations when SCN is not available.

For those interested in contacting Bill by letter, his full address is A4432, L.A.C. Wright, A. W. H. Signals Section, R.A.A.F. Station, Darwin, N.T. Good luck Bill.

GENERAL N.S.W. V.M.F. NEWS

The V.M.F. Section meeting was held on the 21st April being very well attended. Mr. Court Hean, of A.W.A., provided a most interesting lecture on V.H.F. and U.H.F. Antennae using an epidiascope to illustrate the lecture. Hean explained the working of the Smith Chart Calculator which is used in conjunction with a measuring line to determine impedance and reactance in antenna design. He also stressed the importance of omni-directional arrays such as the turnstile and dipole. At the meeting the recently elected officers took over and a vote of thanks was passed to the retiring officers.

On 10th April, the field day was held, the warmest being as near perfect as could be desired. Thirteen stations took the field and operated on 80, 144 and 278 Mc., although most of the equipment for the latter band broke down and no contacts were made on 278 Mc.

144 Mc. proved the most popular band and was packed with signals all day. Three of the stations used crystal controlled rigs for their portable work. The 144 Mc. band has nothing to go by there will be considerably more crystal rigs next time. Further afield was heard from the mobile station of the Corner gang with home to Saddleback Mt. near Kiama, about 80 miles south of Sydney. They took along a small petrol electric outfit which gave them 340 volts a.c.—sufficient 278 made a week-end jaunt of it and anchored somewhere in the Blue Mountains for the night, but could not work anyone during the Saturday evening.

The contest held during the field day proved popular being split into two rounds, so there was never any shortage of stations to be worked. Results of this Contest are: 1st, VK3AET 32 and VK2ARF 21; 2nd, VK2ADY 31.

The prize for the highest score consisted of a pair of RL8s and one 955-sufficient valves to make a start on 278 Mc. These items were donated by CEC Cronin, the N.S.W. Section Secretary.

278 Mc. This band has been very quiet over the last month, even since the DX left us. 2RU reports the band open to VK3 on one occasion, but Major couldn't make himself heard and hence could not make any contacts. The contacts being made. The beacons have been mostly absent but early in the month Perth was heard on 278 Mc.

Most consistent station on 80 Mc. is 3QZ who has been writing these notes until this month. Bob may be a contact any evening and rarely fails to contact me by return of mail. The band has a new station is 2ABW, of Kingsford. Derry is putting out a very strong signal using 80T and the first 2ABW has made contacts having done things to what he described as his "vile beam rotating motor". Having heard the real deal, he has made a good receiver, one is inclined to agree with him.

3QA of Etahlong has been heard frequently late in the day and puts in a very fine signal to the distance and difficult path. His near neighbour 2KRL has also been heard but CEC is a very weak signal. The band has been very quiet up we may hear more of the "Yabble Cuckoo". 3ANK has been trying out a half watt outfit running from dry batteries and gets out extremely well. Barry has the whole band open out for him when he went mobile marine early in the month, but no contact was made as he didn't go. 3KX has been making contacts on share of trouble lately, but Ted generally comes out on top. 2YW has moved up from his 80 Mc. point and may now be heard on 144 Mc. I doubt this is to assist in populating the high end of the band.

144 Mc.—This band has been fairly active and a considerable amount of mobile work has been done of late. The Sydney area is fairly well suited to this type of work particularly along the heights of the north side of the City. Stations heard mobile are 2FK, 2AZO, 2YM, 2ANF, 2ACH, 2ABZ and 2AQZ.

Mobile crystal controlled rigs are appearing for mobile work and a number of others are either under construction or projected. One particular mobile station is 322, running 600 W. watts to the final 650, this little outfit gives a good account of itself.

The "Halo" antenna is also creating interest amongst portable stations. It has been proved far superior to the dipole, particularly in poor locations. For those interested, dimensions are as follows: Diameter of loop 2 1/2 in. and plates 2 1/2 in. diameter approx. 1/4 in. apart. Main element is made from 3/8 in. o.d. tubing and driven from a neon sign transformer. The centre to centre from the main element, are made from 3/8 in. o.d. tubing. In appearance it is identical with the 30 Mc. version shown in the A.R.R.L. Handbook. The "Halo" is fed with 75 ohm twin lead.

2AZZ has acquired a complete 322. 3QZ has appeared on c.w. at the high end of the band and hopes to get a modulator going shortly. Bob is running an 832 in the final and using a beam which has to be brought in every time it rains. 2JW has now got gone going, plans to go crystal control. 2AZO and 2ANF have both built crystal rigs for portable work. 2ABZ, Sunday morning 2WV relay directed at VK3, has been discontinued until conditions are more likely to favour it in the future.

2BZG has taken the matrimonial plunge and held a pre-wedding party which resembled a v.h.f. convention. The cake was appropriately topped with a scaled-down replica of Bruce's 50 and 144 Mc. beams.

378 Mc. Despite the failure of the equipment during the field day interest still continues on this band. 2AZZ and 2WV are on each evening working cross-band from 144 and 2ABW often joins in. The chase down south seems to have

given the band away which is a pity as they were doing some good work. 2XK now has a pair of RL8s going instead of one and his signal is improved. However, it is a pity that he found that his helical antenna is just about failing to pieces, the screen reflector having rusted badly.

VICTORIAN V.M.F. GROUP NOTES

Next Group meeting night is Wednesday, 20th June at the rooms, 191 Queen Street. Listen to 3WV broadcasts for details of any lecture, talk or other entertainment. However, it is suggested that a note to attend in any case, for an interesting evening is assured.

Twenty members at the April meeting gave their attention to the election of officers for the next year, reports of field day activities, 3WV v.h.f. transmitters, the possibilities of portable work, technical details of the equipment to the Group and snapped up about 30 odd disposals crystals. In addition, a letter was received from VK7M, giving details of an exciter for 144 Mc. for publication in "A.R." This was in response to our recent suggestion that publication of v.h.f. gear may help to populate these bands.

Office-bearers elected for the next year are as follows: Chairman, 2JO; Secretary, 3ALN; Vice-Chairman, 3FO; 3YE, 3AJI; Notes Writer, 3JO.

Reports on the April field day were given by 3FO, 3YS and 3JO. Activity generally was not so great as previously, though two new calls on 144 Mc., 3ADU and 3ANX, were heard and contacted. The results of the field day were 3WV, by some of the portable stations. Results of the Contest are not yet to hand but will be published in the next issue. It is interesting to note that a large number of logs has been received.

The lack of available power supplies is keeping the 3WV 80 and 144 Mc. transmitters off the air. 3ABA reported that the power tranny donated for the job won't deliver the goods on load. After discussion a line of action was decided on and since three Group members are also Divisional Councilors, it is not too much to hope that this problem will be solved.

The news that tropospheric predictions by the Federal Ionospheric and Tropospheric Service, already supplying ionospheric predictions to the V.M.F. group, were of great interest to the Group was received with great interest, and as the appointment of an officer to handle these predictions is being considered by the Council, it should not be long before we have the opportunity to avail ourselves of this service.

All crystals were soon disposed of and the meeting was a most successful one. Thanks to the office-bearers of the last twelve months.

Stop Press.—The Field Day Contest winners are 3YS, portable section; 3EN, home section.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS FROM SOUTH AUSTR.

Main interest is still concentrated on the 354 Mc. band and quite a lot of stations are active. 3QZ has a crystal transmitter consisting of two stages using 6J5s and 833 final, with an eight element beam. 3GL has his xtal converter working nicely. 3JD heard testing small rig on 7 Mc. but still plugging v.h.f. idea is to 3QO country. Hams on 1 Mc. and give them any Zen to get them on 80 or above.

On a recent Sunday morning 3AX had an 80 signal in Adelaide on 80 Mc., but mod. was low. A new signal on 80 Mc. is 3ZY and states he wants to stay on 80 Mc. and has a portable gear for 144. 50 Mc. men should not lose sight of the fact that there will be some openings during the winter months. The 3QZ rig will be better that gear ready and listen at odd times. 3QZ reports improvement in signal strengths since changing from 300 to 350 Mc. and not so prone to break.

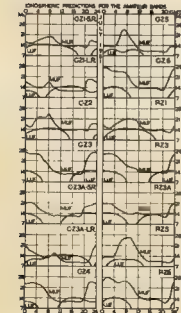
Acknowledgments to VKs 2ANF, 3JO, 3KL and 3CN for the above material.

FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS

The following is a list of the bands available for use by the Amateur Service in Australia, following the types of emission allowed on these bands.

3.3 to 3.8 Mc.—A1, 3, 3a, 8F3.	
7.2 to 7.3 Mc.—A1, 3, 3a, 8F3.	
14.0 to 14.4 Mc.—A1, 3, 3a, 8F3.	
26.86 to 27.23 Mc.—A1, 3, F.M.	
28.0 to 30.0 Mc.—A1, 3, 3a, 8F3.	
34.0 to 34.8 Mc.—A1, 2, 3, F.M.	
144 to 148 Mc.—A1, 1, 2, 3, F.M., Pulse.	
228 to 236 Mc.—A1, 3, 3a, F.M., Pulse.	
270 to 280 Mc.—A1, 1, 2, 3, F.M., Pulse.	
1215 to 1330 Mc.—A1, 1, 2, 3, F.M., Pulse.	
1330 to 1450 Mc.—A1, 1, 2, 3, F.M., Pulse.	
1450 to 1560 Mc.—A1, 1, 2, 3, F.M., Pulse.	
10000 to 10500 Mc.—A1, 1, 2, 3, F.M., Pulse.	
21000 to 22000 Mc.—A1, 1, 2, 3, F.M., Pulse.	
30000 Mc. and higher—A1, 1, 2, 3, F.M., Pulse.	

Call	50 Mc. W.A.S.	Certificate Number	Additional Countries
VKARY	3	3	3
VK3VW	3	3	3
VK3DW	4	4	4
VK3NR	4	4	4
VK3QZ	4	4	4
VK3B	4	4	4
VK3HT	7	7	7
VK3AEZ	10	10	10
VK3KA	11	11	11
VK3LA	11	11	11
VK3ABC	8	8	8



Compact 40 Metre Antenna

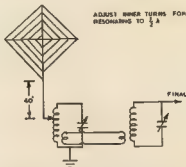
BY TED CAWTHRON,* VK5JE

The author has been experimenting with an antenna which may interest those Amateurs who, due to lack of space, may not be able to put up a half wave antenna for operation on 7 Mc. The writer was only able to put up one mast which was very close to a fence and which prevented a sloping antenna being used in a westerly direction, thus ruling out early morning European contacts. As the mast is 40 feet high, the idea was hit upon trying to make the antenna tune to a half wave in preference to a quarter wave due to the sandy nature of the surrounding terrain.

At the top of the 40 feet vertical a frame consisting of two crosspieces at right angles, each one four feet long, was attached. A number of "button" type insulators were screwed to the cross members, spaced about three inches apart, and the remaining portion of the antenna wound in the form of a spiral until the antenna resonated at a half wave of the desired frequency. Due to the inductive effect of the coil the full 26 feet or so may not be needed.

The procedure to tune the antenna is as follows: Link couple the final plate coil to the antenna coupler and tune the latter to resonance, being careful not

to over-couple. Attach the antenna to the antenna coil and note how the tuning condenser has to be turned to effect resonance. If the condenser has to be reduced in value then the antenna is too long and vice versa.



Adjust the inner turns of the top loop until attaching the antenna to the antenna coupler does not affect its tuning. Due to various factors such as varying the link placement in the coils it may be a little bit tricky to get the adjustment right at first trial. Attaching an earth to one end of the antenna coupler may be advisable—the writer uses this method.

However, this antenna is only put forward as an idea and may be worth experimenting with. On 7 Mc., early morning European reports range from S7 to S5 and the DX quoted in the "DX Notes" have all been worked with it. On 14 Mc. during the B.E.R.U. Contest, when conditions were rather poor, VS6 (S8), VS1 (S7), ZS (S4), GW (S5), and VU (S8) were worked with the reports as shown.

On 3.5 Mc. the antenna failed to raise Ws during the A.R.R.L. Contest, but three S7 reports were received from ZL which was encouraging and further experiments are to be made on this band.

A few things to think about. See if the orientation of the frame is of any help. Keep the insulation good on the frame and the wires rigid or wet weather will cause erratic results. Turn a deaf ear to the XYL and others who say the outfit looks like a radar set-up on a battleship. Good hunting!

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AS/MPA

Welcome visitors to the Western Zone were Criff 2XO and XVI. Sean. Orange has new Ham, 2AWY, who is ex-4WY. Welcome to this zone OM EXP only station heard from Dubbo area at all regularly. 2AXS considering n.b.l.m. to beat the h.e.l. 2AMV at Forbes mainly on 10, makes a rare QSO on 7 Mc. 2WH been making the most of good conditions on 80 to wrap fish tales with the coast-wise boys. 2ACU at Coomabie, putting out good signal on 7 Mc. and 3.5 Mc.

2LZ has moved into first part of the house and still busy building, all set up but not operating much. 2EX has a new car, so doing the proper thing and taking YF about. 2SRZ received his W.A.Z. certificate recently, takes it out and admires it about once a week, still driving nails furiously. Doonadee Jack WIF not heard much, but the rotary is in a different position every time it's seen, so is possibly on 20—maybe it is just the wind. 2AGN will be going to sea again soon and maybe heard from the Persian Gulf.

SOUTH COAST AND SOUTHERN

Activity in this zone for the month has been good and at long last we have managed to get a few stations together on 40 phone on Sunday mornings. Our first hook-up included 2BQ, 2APF, 2OW, 2DY, 2AMD and 2DO. The hook-up covered most of the areas in the West. 2APF heard operating portable from Sydney using Command Tx and Rx, input of 4 watts, the home outfit is being made to work on all bands and 45 foot tower is ready to accommodate both 16 and 20 beams. 2BQ is engaged in tennis competitions during week-ends but manages the 40 phone hook-up; you should contact WSVV of Texas Jeff—WSVV represented U.S.A. in the Davis Cup in 1930 and visited Australia in 1933.

Gordon 2OW now sports 35 countries on c.w. and has been bitten very badly by the DX bug; 22 countries in one week is the best effort to far. 2AKD running 10w power, 8 watts to an exciter stage of his 20 rig is used on 40; Howard previously operated under a G call. Notice two new calls in the call sign columns of "A.R."—2KK is in Liverpool and the other 22N would be remembered as 2ADK. 2AFD is also listed as being at Wollongong. No doubt Col 2ASF who recently left the North Coast will be heard from his new QTH at Eden. Toby 2ARY is experimenting with a Kollman all-metel and has called it to test these areas level. is interested to see whether there is any

tie up between band conditions and day-to-day variations of pressure.

2ALS changed cars again, QRL putting elbow grease and polish onto the job. Les 2FL sports 22 countries, but has not been active in the last few weeks. We learn that Jack 2QA, who held the position of Zone Officer in the North West, has retired from his position on the staff of the Elect. Dept. at Nyngan and will be leaving the town. Jack will spend a holiday at Tallamale and then visit many of the Hams down in southern N.S.W. His future QTH will be determined by his acceptance of a position that appeals to him—best of luck Jack. Every station taking part in the zone hook-up on Sunday mornings likes the idea. Everyone is welcome to join—times 1030, frequency about 7175 Kc.

VICTORIA

SOUTH WESTERN ZONE CONVENTION

The South Western Zone Convention was held at Ballarat on 29th and 31st April. An excellent attendance of members and visitors resulted and all had a very pleasant time. Visitors first called at JAMH for information and then visited some of the shacks. The first function was the Annual Meeting held at the R.S.L. Hall. The President 32U welcomed the visitors and everyone then gave their call sign, name and location.

Election of office-bearers resulted in the following: President, 2ASV. Vice-Presidents, 2AKE and 2ZU; Secretary and Treasurer, 2AME; Committee, 2AGV, 3IC and 2AKR, Publicity Rep., 2AKR.

It was decided that the next Convention would be held at Warrambol on 30th and 31st October. 32U is organising this so keep that week-end free chaps and let Frank know early if you are coming. The zone hook-up is still being held on 3.5 Mc. first Sunday in the month at 2100 hours.

The matter of the BC111 Frequency Meter was raised and it was stated that it was awaiting a 1 Kc. crystal and being held in Melbourne. 2AKR donated the necessary crystal and we expect a rush of applicants for the secretarial position at the next elections. 3KV donated a trophy to the value of £3 for the member best serving his zone. Further details of this trophy will be available in due course. We then heard a few comments from 3PO regarding the material for the Sunday broadcasts. However, Col

has our sympathy in this matter and everyone should make an effort to let Col have some details of our doings for inclusion.

Those present at the meeting were 2ASV, 2AKR, 3IC, 3ADN, 2AJR, 3HG, 3GM, 3BX, 32L, 2APK, 2VL, 3US, 2HW, 2BI, 3GR, 2AGV, 2PB, 2JNE, 2AKV, 3DS, 3VA, 2AMS, 2GS, 2AIM, 3HK, 2AJI, 2RU, 3WQ, 2FO, 3KV, 3CD, 2AMB, 2ALW, 2RT, Ron Wilkinson, R. Giddings, B. Lyons, L. Jackson, R. Warren and Ted Howlett. Sunny 2ASV, 2PB and 2AMH took a Type 3 Mk. II. to Cambarion Hill and operated it for a hidden transmitter hunt. 2AKE and 2AGV were the only two cars to find the transmitter and both did a good job. The official Dinner was held on Sunday and 58 sat down to a very pleasant rag-chew and meal. In the afternoon another transmitter hunt was held and more cars were entered on this occasion. The transmitter was operated by 2ASV, 2RT, 2WV and 2AMH and hidden on the south-east shore of Lake Burrambeet and a few natural hazards made detection difficult, namely an almost impassable road. 2AKR was the only entrant to find the transmitter and he might have been in the blitz buggy if he had known what the country was like. Several chaps came very close to finding the transmitter but turned back when they saw the road, in fact one car had to be pushed out. 2AKE disgraced himself by misinterpreting a bearing and wandered off into the mists.

John 2AGD has a junior op now, which makes Leigh 3U a grand-dad. 2ADN still heard occasionally on 40, but not very active. Congratulations are also due to one of our associates, Tony Wilson, of Glen Thompson, for his engagement to a very nice lass from the big smoke. Don't let it put a stop to your c.w. practice Tony. No news from Warrambol since this month, so what about it Frank! 2APG trying out a bit of a.s.c. on 40, also heard on 20. 2BV trying voice operated carrier, not quite right yet. 2ALG has erected an 80 metre doubler. 2AJT bagging the DX on 40 metres; has almost re-built his modulator, is going to re-build the final.

2ABE gets on occasionally, heard working 2LNE. 2WV put out a good signal on 40 on Anzac Day. 2ABK still silent. YL trouble I guess. 3IC has not been on much over the past month. 2AOL built up a new final.

EASTERN ZONE

Our portable field week-end of May 5-6 proved a great success. Judging from remarks on the Sunday night hook-up. Full details of final

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Page 15

be on 50 metres, but Stewart is still giving house-building first priority. SKU has been heard on 20 metres, and from that it would appear that Reg's new mode is a success.

KEB has just returned from holiday and it goes without saying that Peter will come on the air with renewed zest. SCJ has been working on a coast to coast QTH with great success I might mention, and Colin is now able to get around to that long promised construction of a coast to coast QTH. I don't think of the new sub-editor Col! Did he pay you as much as I do! SWO at Laura is running the show, and he has an Edz on 20 metres and a Zepp antenna, but very little DX, due to the competition from the 33000 mains, a flour mill and a coast to coast QTH. I don't think the things that are sent to try to Austin will be that a signal has to be \$9 plus to even reach his Rtd.

I had the pleasure recently of meeting the charming daughter of Hal SAW and she endeared herself to me by saying that the passengers on the bus that pass my QTH were quite taken up with the view of me bending down whilst doing a little weeding in our front garden. I quietly told her that "there is a destiny that shapes our ends, rough-hew them as we will," but at the same time I intend to sit down and do a little more weeding.

Arch SKK writes to say that fifty per cent. of the Hems on Kangaroo Island have left that island for the mainland, which is only another matter of a coast to coast QTH. I don't think SDR is the only one left behind. Inky SWP was over that way on a business trip recently, and he has a note in the magazine that he left Bert leaving the island as well, so if you want to work Kangaroo Island you will have better hurry up.

Jackie a batch of notes from SST on w.h.f. doing which I forwarded to my partner in crime, Clarrie. The notes arrived somewhat late for the month, but they were good. I don't mind QTH, but better late than never, and the only thing that I was sorry for was that they were not in the magazine. I don't mind you use them. Many thanks OM. Advice received from GCM (ex-BWV) at Darwin tells us that he has a note in the magazine that he has a QTH on 20 metres and will welcome contacts with the gang down south and elsewhere.

The VKI notes are becoming well known, as a letter from W land has been received which, besides saying several nice things about the notes, also wanted to know just who the person named "Doc" was. Well, that is a question I shall to answer. If I give my personal explanation as to just who "Doc" is, the Editor won't print it because of the law of libel. If I write just what the average member thinks of "Doc", the Editor still won't print it because there is no room in the magazine for the words of praise. Therefore I will compromise by saying that he has a very talented and a note in the magazine that he has a QTH. Her latest masterpiece has not crossed the border with a tortoise and now she is offering all and sundry a new pet, to wit, a tortoise. She is trying to talk me into having one of these tortoises, but so far I have resisted all her sales talk.

My heart-rending plea for some notes from the country brought along a very welcome letter from the VKI. It was a letter from the VKI that Ham population of that town now consists of HEN, SOD, KAS and BCO, and also a few notes from the VKI. I don't think the VKI is interested in Edgemoor 640, a 100 watt transmitter, and a three element beam on 30 metres; Bob is well known on 20 metres, and he has a Zepp antenna, and a three element beam and a 12 tube Rx; Ern does a fair bit of portable work with his Zepp antenna, and he has a Zepp antenna. BKS is temporarily off the air but a new TX nearly finished and also a 12 tube Rx to make adjustments to now and again. Ron is still active of his time with motor bikes, swimming, army parades, and several other sidelines which naturally does not leave much time for radio. In two years ago he did not have a difference between a resistor and a condenser, but due to his ambition and his cousin, SWO Laura, he has been interested in 40 metres c.w. and phone although his main interest is 388 Mc. Very pleased to meet you

Brian, and many thanks for the welcome notes. Come again OM.

SCE is getting along pretty well on 20 metre phone and it would seem that Max is permanently domiciled on that band. SZV was heard to say on twenty that this band would do him, so it seems that the 40 metre boys and the commercial or that band will miss Nobby very much.

The voting on the wet or dry Xmas Social ended in a tie, and the matter was referred to the Council and although it could be claimed that only a small number of members voted, nevertheless the wet was the winning side. A very interesting debatable question is now settled for all time. Jack Elliott (ZLACC) arrived in Adelaide on 3rd May and spent some of his short time in the fair city of the South. He was one of the boys in the various city and suburban districts. I unfortunately did not have the chance to meet him, but reports from the Council indicated that he was a good scold SWR is the proud father of a bonny bouncing boy, and if half of what I heard him telling me concerning the said harmonic is true, then the Ham fraternity is to gain a convert very early in life. SID has been co-opted to the Council as a w.h.f. representative, and all will agree that it is a good move. Jack and I sat next to each other at the meeting, and I filled and cooed all night. Of course, I can't say that it is nice to see the lion and the lamb lay down together sometimes. It goes without saying that I am the lamb.

Once again I am caught in a trap of my own making. I thought that if I could lure "Doc" to the VKI, I could write a note about him. On my holidays, he would make such a mess of it that he would have to hide his head in shame for the rest of his life. I don't think I am the result of my foul scheme, not only did he write more than I, but he also wrote in a style that could make me write in pure unadorned jealousy. To cap it all, his wife, who is known to us all as "Tortie", had the audacity to suggest that "Doc" was exaggerating when he described me as a "Tortie". I don't think I am, a man or a mouse. Now girls, come down off that table, I am quite harmless.

TASMANIA

The monthly meeting for this Division was held on 2nd May at the Photographic Society Rooms, Liverpool St., the business being general. A lecture was given by "Doc" on the subject of "Electronics of the War", and the subject created a great deal of interest. Several new membership applications were passed and presented. A number of new members have been maintained over the last few months.

Amateur bands during April showed a steady improvement, particularly 7 Mc. with some good DX becoming evident. Interstate contacts especially between VKC and VIC were in evidence with some very solid signals. Newcomer to this band heard during the month was TSA. Charlie Armstrong is another one of these fortunate chaps residing at our leading seaside resort Opsum Bay. Transmitter at present being used is a Type 3 MR. It, although plans are to have a hand made, but I should be a great asset in our now over-crowded bands.

Another local member to quit the city for the country is TMY, who will be located in the Sandford area and will be active in the past. Alan unfortunately has not been enjoying the best of health of late, and we trust the new move will be of benefit to his general condition. A near neighbour is TTY residing at Pipe Clay Lagoon. Just recently he has been heard on 20 metres, and he is active since returning to the home State. Now quite a stranger to many, TNC was seen attending the monthly meeting. He has not been active of late although, from the pile of QSL cards received, quite a lot of choice DX has been worked in recent months.

A loss to this Division was the transfer of TCM who has now been moved to Melbourne. Charlie, during the past seven years, has enjoyed the role of radio inspector for this State, and has helped grey the amateur bands throughout the Ham fraternity. Best of good wishes for the new position Charlie, and we trust we shall hear of him again in the future. Another member to "migrate to the mainland" will be TJB who has not been active of late. Jack has been heard on 20 metres, and he is building, although from what can be gathered, a solid signal should soon be heard when the move is complete.

Recent adjunct to the shack of TKA is a National NC200 which, although lacking bandspread, performs remarkably well. Alterations to the shack and the building, and the new fine station should be the result. Bands at present worked are 7 and 14 Mc. and the TX runs approx. 40 watts. C.W. is used and Xenon has helped grey the amateur bands for 1000 hours each day. Another to succumb to c.w.

which caused a surprise at first is TSD who has been heard lately with f.b. signal. Don incidentally is a new member of the 8ig. Radio TSD.

Best buy for the month was that made by TSD, which consisted of 328 watts completed with modulation, power supplies, etc. Max must intend opening up in opposition to some of the "forecoming" R.D. Contest. Every effort will have to be made so as our previous success in this Contest can be maintained.

NORTHERN ZONE

For our last meeting Mr. Al Jorgensen, the District Hydro Engineer, gave a most interesting lecture on the development of the hydroelectric in Launceston. Bad luck we couldn't hear the wire recording of the Easter Convention as it had to go to another State after Robert had played it. TKB was ready to play it back, but fate ordained otherwise.

With a little regret that members heard last month that TBQ had given up Ham Radio to engage in the hobby of pole-sitting. Fortunately was proved a lying jibe. It was not TBQ who was on top of the 300 40 metre antenna one night but an offender who shined up the pole to untangle a broken halyard.

TBB is still busy with house building, but manages to take an active interest in zone matters, although his gear is now wrapped in cellophane and modern value. Another who is inactive at present is TMY; Henry has moved into a new house and that and his new shop at 144 Macquarie St. will be active in the R.D. Contest is not far away.

Our new Secretary TAM is still putting out a R.D. signal on 144 Macquarie St. He has someone to tell him how to rotate his beam in a simple manner. Welcome to TGM who makes another member for the zone. Also the glad to see you in the zone is TMY, who is a member of the zone. We hope to see you regularly at the meetings chaps.

The activity in this zone has been on 144 Mc. Every night at 7.18 TBC, TLE, TMC and TAM run a network that rivals the ABC Network in the network. TBC is a very good lookout for mainland contacts. TMC now has his overtones oscillator working well, and TLE has been heard on 144 Mc. TBC, TMC and Henry Crawford, two of our staunch associates, are still very much to the fore and take an active part in zone doings.

HAMADS

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Advertisements under this heading will only be accepted from Institute Members who desire to dispose of equipment which is their own personal property. Copy must be received by 8th of the month, and remittance must accompany advertisement. Calculation of cost is based on an average of six words a line. Dealers' advertisements not accepted in this column.

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SURPLUS New Gear For Sale—460 and 1500 Kc. 1F's 3/- ea.; Tubes: VT105 and 6SS7, 5/- ea.; 12J5, 12A6, 12SG7, 5/- ea.; VR135 and CV68, 10/- ea.; VT104s with socket, 25/- ea.; 832, £2; HK54, £3; HK254, £6. Postage extra. B. Falkenberg, Byaduk, Victoria.

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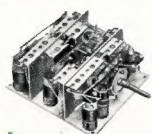
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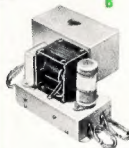
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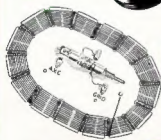
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